

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 024

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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SECTO 68

DEPARTMENT PASS NSCE FOR GENERAL SNOWCROFT AND NESSEN

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: REMARKS TO PRESS BY SECRETARY KISSINGER AND GREEK
FOREIGN MINISTER BIRTSIOS FOLLOWING THEIR MEETING
IN BRUSSELS, MARCH 7, 1975

1. TRANSCRIPT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S STATEMENT:

QUOTE FOREIGN MINISTER BIRTSIOS AND I HAVE HAD ANOTHER
ONE OF OUR SERIES OF FRIENDLY MEETINGS TO DISCUSS THE RANGE
OF ECONOMIC, MILITARY AND POLITICAL MATTERS CONCERNING
THE GOVERNMENTS OF GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES. WE PAID
PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE URGENT NEED OF FINDING A SOLUTION
TO THE PROBLEM OF CYPRUS. FOREIGN MINISTER BIRTSIOS EXPLAINED
TO ME IN DETAIL THE POINT OF VIEW OF HIS GOVERNMENT WITH
RESPECT TO THE FULL RANGE OF ISSUES ON CYPRUS. I, IN TURN,
EXPLAINED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER THE READINESS OF THE UNITED
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STATES GOVERNMENT, AND MY OWN PERSONAL READINESS, TO DO

EVERYTHING WITHIN OUR POWER TO SPEED UP A SOLUTION TO THIS DIFFICULT AND TRAGIC PROBLEM. THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND I AGREED TO MEET AGAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE AT A TIME AND PLACE YET TO BE DETERMINED IN ORDER TO REVIEW THE PROGRESS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN MADE AND THAT, WE HOPE, WILL HAVE BEEN MADE ON THE ISSUES THAT WE DISCUSSED TODAY. UNQUOTE

2. TRANSCRIPT OF FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS' STATEMENT:

QUOTE: SECRETARY KISSINGER AND MYSELF FELT THAT THERE WAS AN ACCUMULATION OF PROBLEMS SERIOUS ENOUGH TO MAKE NECESSARY ANOTHER OF OUR PERIODICAL, FRIENDLY MEETINGS. THE SUBJECTS WHICH WE HAVE DISCUSSED ARE DIFFICULT MATTERS, SO NO SPECTACULAR RESULTS COULD BE EXPECTED, BUT OUR DISCUSSION WAS TO PLACE IN THE SPIRIT OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND OUR DETERMINATION AND WILLINGNESS TO SEE PROGRESS MADE IN ALL

FIELDS. WE SHALL MEET AGAIN, AND I EXPECT THAT BY THAT TIME WE SHALL HAVE TO REPORT SOME FURTHER PROGRESS. THANK YOU. UNQUOTE

3. TRANSCRIPT OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS: QUOTE

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, WILL THAT MEETING TAKE PLACE JOINTLY WITH THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER?

ANSWER: SECRETARY KISSINGER: WE HAVE NOT MADE ANY PLANS. I WOULD EXPECT THAT THIS WILL BE A SEPARATE MEETING BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS AND MYSELF. BUT WE ARE OF COURSE IN FAVOR OF ANYTHING THAT WOULD FACILITATE NEGOTIATIONS.

QUESTION: MR. FOREIGN MINISTER, ARE YOU HOPEFUL OF EARLY RESUMPTION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH TURKEY?

ANSWER: FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS: THE SITUATION IS SUCH THAT I HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE A BREAKTHROUGH.

QUESTION: IS THERE NOW A NEW APPROACH THAT YOU HAVE AGREED ON THAT COULD BE PRESENTED TO THE TURKS HOPEFULLY TO LEAD UNCLASSIFIED

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TO TURKISH AGREEMENT TO BEGIN NGOTIATIONS?

ANSWER: SECRETARY KISSINGER: THIS WAS NOT A QUESTION TODAY OF DISCOVERING NEW APPROACHES. I AM SENDING ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARMAN TO ANKARA TO REPORT ON THE DISCUSSIONS. WE HOPE THAT A FRAMEWORK CAN BE FOUND, BOTH PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE, THAT WILL PERMIT THE PROGRESS OF WHICH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS AND I HAVE SPOKEN.

QUESTION: (IN GREEK) HAVE YOU PROPOSED A SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM (SUMMARY OF A QUESTION IN GREEK)?

ANSWER: SECRETARY KISSINGER: I HAVE NOT PROPOSED ANY SOLUTION. THE UNITED STATES WILL DO ITS BEST TO FACILITATE A SOLUTION, BUT OF COURSE THE BASIC POSITIONS WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN BY THE PARTIES CONCERNED AND IT WOULD NOT BE PROPER FOR THE UNITED STATES TO IMPOSE ITS OWN VIEWS ON THE PARTIES. WHAT THE UNITED STATES DOES DO IS TO INDICATE ITS SUPPORT FOR A SPEEDY SOLUTION. THE TALKS THIS AFTERNOON IN WHICH FOREIGN MINISTER KITSIOS EXPLAINED, AS I SAID, THE FULL RANGE OF THE GREEK POINT OF VIEW WILL BE STUDIED WITH SYMPATHY AND WILL BE DEALT WITH IN A MANNER THAT WE HOPE WILL FACILITATE A SETTLEMENT.

QUESTION: HOW SOON CAN A SOLUTION BE FOUND? (SUMMARY OF QUESTION IN GREEK.)

ANSWER: SECRETARY KISSINGER: I THINK IT IS PREMATURE TO SPECULATE AS TO TIME. I AGREE WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KITSIOS THAT BY THE TIME WE MEET AGAIN, IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO INDICATE A TIME FRAME AND TO REPORT SOME SPECIFIC STEPS THAT COULD BE TAKEN.

QUESTION: WILL YOU MEET FOREIGN MINISTER EISENHOWER?

ANSWER: SECRETARY KISSINGER: I AM PREPARED TO MEET WITH THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER, AND I EXPECT TO MEET WITH HIM WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. WE HAVE NOT SET A DATE.

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON UNITED STATES BASES IN GREECE?
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ANSWER: SECRETARY KISSINGER: THAT WOULD BE THE LAST QUESTION, AT LEAST AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED. YES, WE REVIEWED THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT WERE STARTED. THEY WILL BE RESUMED IN A FEW WEEKS AFTER WE HAVE STUDIED THE GREEK POSITION THAT WAS SUBMITTED TO US. THESE NEGOTIATIONS TOO ARE, IN OUR JUDGMENT, BEING CONDUCTED IN A CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT.

QUESTION: ARE YOU NOW MORE OPTIMISTIC?

ANSWER: SECRETARY KISSINGER: I THINK IT IS PREMATURE TO MAKE ANY PREDICTIONS. WE ARE SERIOUSLY TRYING TO HELP TOWARDS A SOLUTION, AND AGAIN I THINK THAT AFTER THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND I MEET THE NEXT TIME, WE MAY BE ABLE TO HAZARD SOME PREDICTIONS. UNQUOTE.

KISSINGER

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